

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 ERDA-05 ACDA-07 OMB-01 OES-06 /072 R

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S/S-O RMPERITO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MADRID NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

CNO IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239403

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MNUC, SP GI

SUBJECT: NPW VISITS TO SPANISH PORTS AND GIBRALTAR

REFS: (A) MADRID 7325 (DTG 241623Z SEP 76), (B) CNO
102110Z SEP 76, (C) CNO 091815Z JUN 76

1. SUMMARY. REFTTEL A INDICATED POSSIBILITY OF A ONE
TIME VISIT OF NIMITZ TO A SPANISH PORT 1-3 OCT PROVIDING
IT DOES NOT RPT NOT VISIT GIBRALTAR. THIS MESSAGE
SUGGESTS RESPONSES AND RELATED RATIONALE. END SUMMARY
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2. WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE FONMIN'S DESIRE TO AVOID MAKING A PUBLIC ISSUE OF THE NIMITZ PRESENCE IN GIBRALTAR 1-3 OCT. IN THE INTEREST OF DEMONSTRATING OUR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE IN AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, WE WOULD AGREE TO NIMITZ VISIT TO A SPANISH PORT INSTEAD OF GIBRALTAR. CINCUSNAVEUR HAS INDICATED A PREFERENCE OF PORTS IN ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

A. ANCHORAGE AT PALMA

B. ANCHORAGE AT VALENCIA

C. ANCHORAGE AT ALICANTE

3. WE WOULD PREFER TO STICK TO PRESENT PLANS FOR USS SOUTH CAROLINA (CGN 37) TO VISIT GIBRALTAR DURING OCT 1-3 PERIOD. SOUTH CAROLINA IS SCHEDULED TO BE THE ONLY OTHER NPW WITH NIMITZ DURING THIS PERIOD. IT MAY BE USEFUL, IF YOU DEEM NECESSARY, TO REMIND GOS THAT A COMBINED VISIT BY NPWS (CRUISER CALIFORNIA AND SUBMARINE BILLFISH) TO GIBRALTAR OCCURRED JULY 17-21 WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, BY GOS.

4. HOWEVER, IF THIS ISSUE CAN BE RESOLVED IN NO OTHER WAY, WE WOULD ACCEPT SPANISH PORT VISITS FOR BOTH SOUTH CAROLINA AND NIMITZ. THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO GIBRALTAR FOR USS SOUTH CAROLINA IS A SPANISH PORT. THIS PORT NEED NOT, AND PREFERRABLY WOULD NOT, BE THE SAME PORT AS NIMITZ.

5. WITH RESPECT TO DISTANCE FROM SHORE THAT NIMITZ MIGHT ANCHOR, USDAO MADRID HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN REFTELC THE ANCHORAGES/BERTHS IN EACH PORT FOR WHICH REACTOR SAFEGUARDS CLEARANCES CAN BE GRANTED. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOS, CARE MUST BE EXERCISED THAT NO INFORMATION ON THE US REACTOR SAFEGUARDS CLEARANCE PROCESS IS DISCUSSED.

6. WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT ROTA AS THE VISIT PORT IF OFFERED. WE WOULD NOT VIEW IT AS A STEP

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FORWARD IN OPENING SPANISH PORTS TO NPWS SINCE WE HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF SUCH VISITS THERE. OTHER FACTORS TO CONSIDER ARE THE ADDITIONAL TRANSIT TIME, UNUSUAL CONCENTRATION OF AND ACTIVITY BY SOVIET AGIS IN THE ROTA OPERATING AREAS, AND THE VERY LIMITED FACILITIES AVAILABLE LOCALLY TO ABSORB SUCH A LARGE ADDITIONAL LIBERTY PARTY. TIME IS EXTREMELY SHORT FOR ARRANGING TOUR PARTIES OR OTHER DEVICES TO ALLEVIATE SUCH CROWDING.

7. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF SPAIN ACCEPTING
A PORT VISIT BY NIMITZ IS INDICATIVE OF SPANISH WILLING-
NESS TO GO FORWARD TOWARD A PERMANENT RESOLUTION OF
THE NPW ISSUE IN A TIMELY MANNER.

8. OSD/ISA CONCURS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ITINERARY, NUCLEAR POWERED SHIPS, NAVAL SHIPS, MILITARY VISITS, PORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE239403
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JFDRAIN/DS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760363-0672
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760918/aaaaaptj.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MADRID 7325
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NPW VISITS TO SPANISH PORTS AND GIBRALTAR
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, MNUC, SP, GI, US
To: MADRID
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006